

*Statement for the record
from*

**Joyce Jackson, MHA, President and CEO
Northwest Kidney Centers**

in support of the
Extension of the Charitable IRA Rollover

Presented to the
**United States House of Representatives
Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures**

**Hearing on Certain Expiring Tax Provisions
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Northwest Kidney Centers respectfully submits the following comments in support of extending the charitable Individual Retirement Account rollover provisions.

Northwest Kidney Centers is a dialysis provider based in the Puget Sound region of Washington State. We were founded in 1962 as the world's first out-of-hospital dialysis program. Today, we are the largest community-based non-profit dialysis provider in the United States. Northwest Kidney Centers provides care to approximately 25 percent of Washington State's dialysis patients in 14 centers and 11 hospitals in King and Clallam counties.

Charitable donations provide vital funding for the Northwest Kidney Centers' mission, services to our patients and community benefits. We actively seek private, corporate and public support from individuals, companies and foundations. In the 2011 budget year, Northwest Kidney Centers received \$2 million in charitable donations which included invaluable IRA rollover funds. We use these donations to provide:

- Charity care and uncompensated dialysis
- Free predialysis, dialysis and transplant classes
- Training of kidney doctors
- Community outreach about kidney health and organ donation
- Kidney disease research

Philanthropy funds the full cost of these programs annually.

Patient care, education and research are essential parts of our mission. Northwest Kidney Centers participates in 60 outreach events each year, reaching more than 12,000 people with kidney information. Our chronic kidney disease program offers classes on treatment options and good nutrition for nearly 1,000 pre-dialysis, dialysis and transplant patients and family members each year, at no cost to the participants. And since 2003, we have hosted an annual Kidney Health Fest for African American Families to educate and screen African Americans, who are four times more likely to have kidney disease—higher than any other population group.

If Congress allows the charitable rollover provisions to expire, this action will hurt most those in the lowest income brackets that rely heavily on charities for services. In these difficult economic times, now more than ever, charities are bridging the gap by serving those in need as budgetary constraints prevent state and federal governments from providing similar services.

We take pride in being a community-based dialysis provider that provides patients with more than just dialysis treatments. As we celebrate our 50th anniversary this year, Northwest Kidney Centers looks forward to providing charity care, pre-dialysis services, education, training and research to our patients, our community and other dialysis providers throughout the U.S. for many more years to come. Extending the IRA rollover provisions will enable us to continue this important work.

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